

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A member accessible information system for managing member information regarding products, and selectively providing the member information to individual members, said system comprising:

a plurality of remotely connected computers connected together over a network, wherein member information regarding products is accessible by members ~~members accessing member information regarding products~~ over ones of said remotely connected computers, and wherein at least some member information regarding at least one product resides within at least one of the remotely connected computers;

means for maintaining said member information regarding products including a database server storing said member information regarding products ~~and also storing procedures and functions~~, said database server managing said stored member information, ~~procedures and functions~~ and providing selected portions of said member information regarding products responsive to appropriate requests from authorized members;

means for searching through member information regarding products responsive to an information request from a member; and

means for selectively allowing members to request said member information regarding products.

2. (Previously amended) A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein the means for selectively allowing members to request member information regarding products comprises:

login means for receiving a member identification and corresponding password and, providing a logging-in member portions of said member information responsive to a request.

3. (Previously amended) A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein the means for maintaining member information regarding products further comprises:

a webserver storing static content information and serving said static content to members;

an appserver storing applications for use by members and selectively executing stored applications responsive to selected requests from members; and

a policy server storing user security profiles and managing said stored user security profiles, each of said members' security profile indicating a level of authorization of a corresponding member.

4. (Currently amended) A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein the means for searching member information regarding products comprises:

a search engine having full text indexing and searching capability for searching member supplied documents regarding products stored in said system; and

a crawler ~~continuously~~ searching and indexing searched said member supplied documents regarding products,

said search engine searching and retrieving documents regarding products indexed by said crawler responsive to member requests.

5. (Original) A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein said system further comprises a personalization server, said personalization server recording characteristics of content viewed by members and personalizing content, personalized content automatically being made available to corresponding members thereafter.

6. (Original) A member accessible information system as in claim 1, said system further comprising an ad server providing advertising content to members.

7. (Original) A member accessible information system as in claim 6, wherein said ad server manages ad content scheduling, serving and tracking.

8. (Original) A member accessible information system as in claim 1 further comprising:
billing means for tracking member use, deriving member bills from member use and
billing individual ones of said members.
9. (Original) A member accessible information system as in claim 8, said billing means
collecting revenues from billed members.
10. (Original) A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein members
of said system are members of a common industry.
11. (Original) A member accessible information system as in claim 10, wherein members
of said common industry include suppliers, manufacturers and customers.
12. (Original) A member accessible information system as in claim 11, wherein said
common industry is the food industry.
13. (Previously amended) A member accessible information system as in claim 1,
wherein member information regarding products is stored on member computers, member
computers being ones of said remotely connected computers.
14. (Previously amended) A member accessible information system as in claim 1,
wherein at least a portion of said member information regarding products is located on a
central computer with a database server.

15 through 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) An information management system for managing product information distribution, said system comprising:

a central storage storing product information for products related to a common industry wherein said central storage is on a database server, said database server storing and managing member information, ~~procedures and functions~~, and providing selected stored information responsive to appropriate requests from authorized members;

a web server interfacing members with selected product information stored in said central storage and as stored in remotely connected computers through which members interface to the information management system;

a security policy server, selecting product information available to each member;

an app server storing applications for use by members and selectively executing stored applications responsive to selected member requests from said web server;

a policy server storing user security profiles and managing said stored user security profiles, each of said members' security profile indicating a level of authorization of a corresponding member;

a personalization server recording characteristics of content viewed by members and personalizing content, personalized content automatically being made available to corresponding members thereafter; and

a specification storage storing specifications for ones of said products, stored said specifications being selectively provided to ones of said interfacing members.

19. (Original) An information system as in claim 18 further comprising an ad server providing advertising content to members.

20. (Original) An information system as in claim 19, said ad server scheduling, serving and tracking ad content.

21. (Previously amended) An information system as in claim 18 further comprising a billing unit tracking member use, deriving member bills from member use and billing individual ones of said members.
22. (Previously amended) An information system as in claim 21, wherein said billing unit collects revenues from billed members.
23. (Original) An information system as in claim 21, wherein members of said system are members of the food industry.
24. (Original) An information system as in claim 23, wherein said food industry members include suppliers, manufacturers and customers.
25. (Original) A member accessible information system as in claim 21, wherein one or more specifications are stored on member computers, member computers being remotely connected to said information system, the location of remotely stored said specifications being stored on said information system.
26. (Currently amended) An information system as in claim 25 further comprising:
a search engine having full text indexing and searching capability for searching member supplied documents stored in said central storage; and
a crawler ~~continuously~~ searching and indexing searched said member supplied documents,
said search engine searching and retrieving documents indexed by said crawler responsive to member requests.
27. (Original) An information system as in claim 25, wherein one or more specifications are stored in said central storage.
28. (Original) An information system as in claim 21, wherein one or more specifications are stored in said central storage.

29. (Currently amended) An information management system for managing product information distribution, said system comprising:

a central storage storing product information for products related to a common industry;

a web server interfacing members with selected product information stored in said central storage and as stored in remotely connected computers through which members interface to the information management system;

a security policy server, selecting product information available to each member;

a billing unit tracking member use, deriving member bills from member use and billing individual ones of said members;

a search engine having full text indexing and searching capability for searching member supplied documents stored in said central storage; and

a crawler ~~continuously~~ searching and indexing searched said member supplied documents,

said search engine searching and retrieving documents indexed by said crawler responsive to member requests;

a specification storage storing specifications for ones of said products, stored said specifications being selectively provided to ones of said interfacing members; and

wherein one or more specifications are stored on member computers, member computers being remotely connected to said information system, the location of remotely stored said specifications being stored on said information system.

30. (Previously presented) An information system as in claim 29, further comprising:

an app server storing applications for use by members and selectively executing stored applications responsive to selected member requests from said web server;

and

a policy server storing user security profiles and managing said stored user security profiles, each of said members' security profile indicating a level of authorization of a corresponding member.

31. (Currently amended) An information system as in claim 30, wherein said central storage is on a database server, said database server storing and managing member information, ~~procedures and functions~~, and providing selected stored information responsive to appropriate requests from authorized members.
32. (Previously presented) An information system as in claim 31 further comprising an ad server providing advertising content to members.
33. (Previously presented) An information system as in claim 32, said ad server scheduling, serving and tracking ad content.
34. (Previously presented) An information system as in claim 29 wherein said billing unit collects revenues from billed members.
35. (Previously presented) An information system as in claim 29, wherein members of said system are members of the food industry.
36. (Previously presented) An information system as in claim 35, wherein said food industry members include suppliers, manufacturers and customers.
37. (Previously presented) An information system as in claim 29, wherein one or more specifications are stored in said central storage.